

Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-12

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D - MR. VELIOTES

S/ S - MR. BARNES

S - MR. LISSY -

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R 111340 Z MAY 73

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY DACCA

INFO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY LONDON

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

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E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: PFOR, BG, PK, IN

SUBJECT: CALL BY MUJIB' S SPECIAL EMISSARY ON SECRETARY

1. SUMMARY: SPECIAL EMISSARY OF MUJIB, M. R. SIDDIQUI, MET WITH SECRETARY MAY 8 FOLLOWING WORKING LUNCHEON WITH DEPUTY SECRETARY. SIDDIQUI REVIEWED RECENT INITIATIVE TAKEN BY BDG AND GOI ON HUMANITARIAN ISSUES WITH PAKISTAN, EXPRESSED REGRETOVER PAKISTAN' S RESPONSE AND PARTICULARLY OVER ITS RECENT ACTION IN ROUNDUP BENGALIEE CIVIL SERVANTS, AND STATED BELIEF THAT " WISE COUNSEL" OF USG WOULD STRENGTHEN NEGOTIATING ATMOSPHERE. SECRETARY RESPONDED THAT WE WOULD CONTINUE TO URGE SPIRIT OF LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
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ACCOMMODATION BUT THAT WE LOOKED TO PARTIES DIRECTLY CONCERNED TO COME UP WITH SOLUTIONS. DEPSEC EXPRESSED HOPE TO SIDDIQUI THAT IN CONSIDERING WAR CRIMES ISSUE BDG WOULD GIVE DUE REGARD TO ITS IMPACT ON ATMOSPHERE

OF RECONCILIATION ESSENTIAL TO FUTURE OF PEOPLES
SOUTH ASIA. END SUMMARY.

2. SIDDIQUI ACCOMPANIED ON CALL BY AMBASSADOR ALI AND
COUNSELOR MUHITH. SISCO AND LAINGEN SAT IN.

3. SECRETARY GAVE SIDDIQUI WARM WELCOME, EXPRESSED
APPRECIATION FOR HOSPITALITY RECENTLY SHOWN DEPSEC AND
SISCO, AND EXPRESSED OUR DESIRE CONTINUE STRENGTHENING
RELATIONS WITH BANGLADESH AND TO ASSIST IN DEVELOPMENT
WITHIN OUR CAPABILITIES. SIDDIQUI EXPRESSED GRATITUDE
FOR U. S. ASSISTANCE AND RECIPROCATED SECRETARY'S
HOPE FOR CONTINUED GOOD RELATIONSHIP.

4. SECRETARY ASKED FOR SIDDIQUI'S ASSESSMENT OF OUTLOOK
FOR NEGOTIATING PROCESS SOUTH ASIA. SIDDIQUI RESPONDED
THAT ATMOSPHERE WAS SOMETHING LIKE LONDON WEATHER;
CLOUDS ONE DAY AND SUNSHINE THE NEXT AND NEVER CERTAIN
WHAT TO EXPECT. BANGLADESH AND INDIA HAD MADE MAJOR
EFFORT TO GET THINGS MOVING IN RECENT DECLARATION.
BHUTTO HAD RESPONDED NOT WITH GOOD WILL BUT WITH MOST
UNFORTUNATE STEP OF ROUNDING UP BENGALIS IN THE
MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT. BENGALIS BEING HELD BY BHUTTO
AS HOSTAGES ALTHOUGH THEY GUILTY OF NO WRONG DOING.
MUJIB HAD CONSISTENTLY INDICATED READINESS TO WORK
TOWARD PEACE BUT GOT NO RESPONSE FROM BHUTTO. SIDDIQUI
DID NOT KNOW WHAT FUTURE MIGHT HOLD BUT HE FELT THAT
WISE COUNSEL TO BHUTTO FROM US WOULD HELP BRING BACK
PEACE AND NORMALCY.

5. SECRETARY RESPONDED THAT IN OUR CONTINUING DISCUS-
SIONS WITH SOUTH ASIAN GOVERNMENTS WE HAD STRESSED THE
NEED FOR PROGRESS TOWARD PEACE AND WOULD CONTINUE TO
DO SO. WE COULD NOT PASS JUDGEMENT ON PARTICULAR
ISSUES SINCE WE FELT STRONGLY THAT SOLUTIONS SHOULD
BEST BE FOUND BY THE PARTIES DIRECTLY CONCERNED. IN
FINAL ANALYSIS THE NATIONS OF THE AREA WOULD HAVE TO
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FIND THESE SOLUTIONS THEMSELVES IF THEY WERE TO LIVE
TOGETHER IN PEACE. US INTEREST WAS PEACE AND ALSO THE
BEST POSSIBLE RELATIONS WITH EACH OF PARTIES CONCERNED.
WE WERE ENCOURAGED BY RECENT DEVELOPMENTS AND FELT
THAT INDO/ BANGLADESH DECLARATION WAS A VERY FORTHCOMING
PROPOSAL.

6. SISCO REITERATED OUR VIEW THAT DECLARATION WAS VERY
DEFINITE STEP FORWARD. HE NOTED THAT HE AND DEPSEC
DURING RECENT VISIT TO ISLAMABAD HAD FOUND THAT BHUTTO
ALSO REGARDED IT AS A STEP AHEAD, ESPECIALLY DELINKING
OF RECOGNITION FROM HUMANITARIAN ISSUES. THEREFORE

WE HOPED BDG WOULD NOT ATTACH TOO MUCH WEIGHT TO WHAT MAY WELL BE MAINLY TACTICAL DEVELOPMENTS OF RECENT DAYS BUT FOCUS RATHER ON FACT THAT ALL THREE PRINCIPALS APPEARED NOW TO BE INTERESTED RESUMING NEGOTIATING PROCESS.

7. SISCO NOTED ALSO THAT BHUTTO HAD EMPHASIZED UNDERLYING AFFINITY BETWEEN PAKISTAN AND BANGLADESH, HIS RECOGNITION OF REALITY OF BANGLADESH, AND HIS HOPE FOR GOOD RELATIONSHIP. SISCO SAID US COULD UNDERSTAND WHY BDG FELT DEEPLY ABOUT EXCESSES COMMITTED IN BANGLADESH BUT NOTED THAT WAR CRIMES TRIALS CLEARLY ARE A SENSITIVE ISSUE FOR BHUTTO AND THAT HE APPEARS TO BE TRYING TO PROCEED CAREFULLY IN CUSHIONING THEIR IMPACT IN PAKISTAN. ON WHOLE, BOTH HE AND DEPSEC HAD FOUND MOOD IN PAKISTAN VERY POSITIVE TOWARD BANGLADESH.

8. SIDDIQUI EXPRESSED HOPE THAT THIS ASSESSMENT CORRECT. BD WAS NOT PURSUING WAR CRIMES ISSUE OUT OF REVENGE BUT OUT OF BELIEF THAT FUNDAMENTAL HUMAN RIGHTS WERE INVOLVED AND THAT AN ELEMENTARY SENSE OF JUSTICE NEEDED TO BE MET. BDG WOULD PROCEED WITH MODERATION, TRIALS WOULD BE COMPLETELY OPEN TO WORLD COMMUNITY.

9. SIDDIQUI NOTED SOME SURPRISE OVER BHUTTO'S RIGID REJECTION OF LIMITED WAR CRIMES TRIALS THAT BDG NOW PROPOSED, PARTICULARLY IN VIEW OF REPORTED PUBLIC COMMENT BY PAK AMBASSADOR IN PEKING WHILE RECENTLY IN HONG KONG TO EFFECT THAT PAKISTAN NOT OPPOSED TO TRIAL LIMITED OFFICIAL USE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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OF 200 POW'S (SIDDIQUI HANDED SECRETARY CLIPPING FROM TIMES OF INDIA, APRIL 28).

10. LAINGEN NOTED THAT ASIDE FROM PROBLEM THAT WAR CRIMES TRIALS REPRESENTED, PAK RESPONSE TO DECLARATION HAD ON WHOLE BEEN POSITIVE IN SENSE THAT PAKISTAN HAD INDICATED ITS READINESS TO BEGIN DIALOGUE ON HUMANITARIAN AND OTHER PROBLEMS WITH INDIANS. SECRETARY INDICATED THAT BASED ON ITS OWN EXPERIENCE USG FOUND SOME DIFFICULTY WITH BDG POSITION THAT IT COULD NOT TALK WITH GOP PRIOR TO RECOGNITION. USG HAD HAD SOME EXPERIENCE WITH CONCEPT OF TALKING IN ABSENCE OF RECOGNITION. AS A LAWYER, SECRETARY WOULD ARGUE THAT THE MERE FACT OF A READINESS TO TALK ON THE PART OF GOP WAS IN EFFECT RECOGNITION ON ITS PART OF BANGLADESH. NONETHELESS WE WOULD NOT PROPOSE TO SUGGEST TO BDG OR ANY OTHER PARTY HOW TO RESOLVE THIS OR OTHER PROBLEMS. US HOPED SIMPLY THAT THERE WOULD NOW BE PROGRESS TOWARD PEACE; WE HOPED ESPECIALLY FOR PROGRESS ON THE POW ISSUE; BANGLADESH/ INDIAN DECLARATION HAD BEEN A FORTHCOMING

AND PROGRESSIVE STEP AND WE HOPED IT WOULD NOW BEGIN TO PRODUCE RESULTS. SIDDIQUI RESPONDED THAT BDG APPRECIATED SYMPATHETIC ATTITUDE SHOWN BY USG AND HOPED THAT SUCH ATTITUDE WOULD CONTINUE TO BE SHOWN. IN THIS CONNECTION HIS GOVERNMENT PARTICULARLY APPRECIATED STATEMENT IN PRESIDENT NIXON'S FOREIGN POLICY REPORT CONCERNING RECOGNITION OF BANGLADESH.

11. SIDDIQUI ALSO MET WITH DEPSEC RUSH DURING WORKING LUNCHEON HOSTED BY LATTER. DURING CONVERSATION SIDDIQUI REVIEWED BDG POSITION ALONG SAME LINES AS ABOVE. DEPSEC INDICATED FULL AWARENESS OF CONCERN FELT DURING 1971 OF EXCESSES BY PAKISTANI SOLDIERS IN BD BUT EXPRESSED HOPE THAT BD WOULD ALSO CONSIDER CAREFULLY IMPACT OF WAR CRIMES TRIALS ON NEGOTIATING ATMOSPHERE AND ON FUTURE PAK/BDG RELATIONSHIP. WE HAD HAD OUR OWN EXPERIENCE WITH WAR CRIMES TRIALS AND ON THAT BASIS WE FELT WE COULD LEGITIMATELY POSE THE QUESTION WHETHER THE GREATER GOOD WAS SERVED BY SUCH TRIALS, OR BY ACTIONS AND POLICIES THAT GAVE PRIORITY TO ATMOSPHERE OF RECONCILIATION AND ACCOMMODATION. DEPUTY SECRETARY
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ALSO ASKED SIDDIQUI TO CONVEY HIS WARMEST REGARDS TO PRIME MINISTER AND FOREIGN MINISTER AND HIS APPRECIATION FOR HOSPITALITY SHOWN DURING DACCA VISIT. ROGERS

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